

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BAT ADVISORY BOARD

May 26, 2022

In Attendance:

Daveson Perez, Designee, City of Brockton	Mary Waldron, Old Colony Planning Council
Brady Winsten, Designee, City of Brockton	Bill McNulty, Old Colony Planning Council
Frank Hegarty, Town of Avon	Shawn Bailey, Old Colony Planning Council
Michael Dutton, Town of Bridgewater	Michael Lambert, Administrator
Joseph Mokrisky, Town of Stoughton	Linda Sacchetti, CFO
Cathie Klabish, Consumer Representative	Kelly Forrester, Mgr. of Transit Operations
Robert Thayer, Rider	Kathy Riddell, BAT

Mr. Hegarty, Acting Chair, called the Advisory Board meeting to order. He stated that based on Governor Baker's extended declaration of a state of emergency on April 12, 2020, enhanced open meeting regulations were utilized for the meeting. The meeting was being recorded and live streamed on BAT's YouTube video platform to provide a public forum/access. All legal requirements were met.

Mr. Hegarty welcomed everyone and thanked them for their participation, a roll call was performed and a quorum was declared.

Mr. Hegarty asked if there were any public comments. There were none. He asked if there were any changes or questions regarding the minutes of the April 28, 2022 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Hegarty and seconded by Mr. Dutton to accept the minutes as presented. A roll call was performed and all were in favor.

Next on the agenda was a service update. Ms. Forrester shared ridership data for fixed route and paratransit. She directed the Board's attention to the ridership documents included in the package. Fixed route ridership has been stable at about 70% of pre pandemic levels. As more businesses reopen in Boston, ridership will continue to increase. With the BAT Centre open, BAT intends to generate as much ridership over the summer as we can and anticipates a strong return to school.

Ms. Sacchetti presented the Board with a DBE update. BAT's DBE goal for next year is 2.5%. This is consistent with BAT's 3-year goal and Goal Setting Methodology. BAT's public outreach includes attending workshops and contacting DBE enterprises as procurement opportunities arise. BAT will advertise its DBE goal for public comment on May 31, 2022.

Mr. Lambert provided federal and state updates. On the state side, the senate is debating the budget and is expected to level fund the RTAs. The RTAs would have liked to have seen an increase to cover inflation costs but it is believed the senate took the federal increase into

consideration when determining RTA needs. The federal funding has been a huge benefit but it is a one-time benefit and more advocacy will be needed once the COVID related federal funds run out. The 5307 Urbanized Area apportionments for FY22 provided a 20% increase. The split letter agreement has been signed by all parties and returned to FTA. BAT can now access those funds. On Tuesday, BAT got word that it was awarded a new state Shared Streets grant to provide passenger amenities including cut-out for three buses, shelters with lighting and signage to be installed beside the Market Basket at Westgate Mall. BAT wants to thank the state for their support of this project.

Mr. Lambert informed the Board that BAT's Federal Triennial Review is still ongoing. Details are under discussion around the thousands of documents initially provided. Early indications are good but BAT is still waiting for final results which will be provided to the Board at the September meeting.

Based on new federal guidelines, BAT is making three slight changes to its Public Hearing Policy which was included in the Board package. The changes include the circumstances that would trigger the requirement of public hearings in the event of major service changes or fare increases. Resolution #262 was presented to replace Resolution #244. Mr. Hegarty made a motion to adopt Resolution #262 as presented and the motion was seconded by Mr. Mokrisky. A roll was called and all were in favor.

Number 6 on the agenda was a report from the Audit and Finance and Compensation Committee. Mr. Hegarty informed the Board that the Committee met just prior to the Advisory Board. There was one compensation recommendation from the Committee to provide the CFO with a 5% salary increase for FY23. Mr. Dutton made a motion to provide the CFO with a 5% salary increase for FY23 and the motion was seconded by Mr. Mokrisky. A roll was called and all were in favor.

Number 7 on the agenda was a financial update. The Board was presented with the FY2022 Amended Budget. Ms. Sacchetti stated there was no change from the document provided at the May meeting. The budget is \$1.3 million under budget due to a number of factors including an increase in auxiliary revenue, state contract assistance increased, fixed route and paratransit service not at pre-COVID levels, unfilled positions and interest expense decreased, to name a few. The Audit and Finance and Compensation Committee thanked Mr. Lambert and Ms. Sacchetti for the professional manner in which they manage resources under difficult circumstances. Mr. Hegarty is confident the system is on solid financial grounds. Mr. Dutton made a motion to adopt Resolution #263 FY2022 Amended Budget and the motion was seconded by Mr. Mokrisky. A roll was called and the resolution unanimously passed.

Under the FY2023 Proposed Budget, Ms. Sacchetti informed the group that the budget was developed at 3% over the FY2022 budget to cover inflation increases, increases in service and full recovery to pre-COVID levels. Ms. Sacchetti addressed the rationale behind developing a number of budget items. As a whole, BAT's budget outlook for the next 3 to 5 years looks stable barring any extreme inflationary issues or other unforeseen circumstances. The Audit and Finance and

Compensation Committee recommends the adoption of the FY2023 Proposed Budget. Mr. Perez made a motion to adopt Resolution #264 FY2023 Proposed Budget and the motion was seconded by Mr. Dutton. A roll was called and the motion passed unanimously.

Under the Administrator's Report, Mr. Lambert provided an update on the progress of the Comprehensive Regional Transportation Plan (CRTP). BAT has implemented several of the recommendations including:

- purchasing bus shelters that include solar lighting for a safer, more comfortable experience. The shelters include updated trash receptacles
- close to improving the automated fare collection system utilizing the MBTA's X generation machines which get rid of soft magnetic tickets
- Out to bid for Rockland micro-transit services similar to Uber and Lyft. The pilot service would provide service to BAT Center, Brockton Hospital, Abington and Brockton Commuter Rail Stations and the Town of Rockland including the Industrial Park. This will eventually replace the Rockland flex-ride service.
- Bus electrification research, sight visits, and electrical providers collaboration is taking place to apply for electric buses next year. It also includes increasing BAT's solar canopy to mitigate electricity costs.

There was no Old/New Business to bring before the Board. Next meeting will take place in September.

Mr. Mokrisky made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Mr. Dutton. A roll was called and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kathy Riddell, BAT

Documents Included in May 26, 2022 Advisory Board Package:

1. Meeting Agenda
2. Advisory Board Meeting Minutes – April 28, 2022
3. Fixed Route Ridership excl BSU
4. Fixed Route Ridership incl BSU
5. DAB Ridership
6. Performance Dashboard FY22
7. DBE Goal Legal Notice
8. Public Hearing Policy on Fare Increases and Major Service Reductions
9. FY22 Amended Budget
10. FY23 Draft Budget